Severson Grabs 10th At Nationals

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HOLLAND, Mich. - **Cori Severson** *(Jr. -Brainerd, MN)* took 10th place in the 50-yard freestyle event in the first day of the NCAA Division III Women's Swimming and Diving Championships, held here today at Hope College.

Severson qualified for competition at nationals with a seed time of 24.21 seconds, which she posted at the Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference Championships on February 17. The time was the 14th best in the nation coming into competition. She was one of 48 swimmers to compete in the 50-yard freestyle event at nationals.

Severson's first task on the day was the 50-yard freestyle preliminaries, in which the top eight swimmers advance to the championship heat while the next eight went on to the consolation heat. Severson posted a time of 24.44 seconds in the preliminaries, which tied her for the 16th and final spot in the finals. She tied with Anne Melvin of UW-La Crosse but earned a spot in the finals with a win in a swim-off. Severson posted an identical time of 24.44 seconds but Melvin finished 2/100ths of a second back at 24.46 seconds.

In the consolation finals, Severson posted a season-best time of 24.17 seconds to grab 10th place and finish runner up in the consolation heat. Meilyn Chan of Kenyon won the consolation final with a time of 24.04 seconds.

Severson was the only member of the UW-Eau Claire swimming and diving team to represent the Blugolds at this year's national competition.

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